High percentage of taxes in the price of cement

†1674. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 30 percent of various taxes are included in sale price of cement in the country;

(b) if not, the kind of taxes being recovered from consumers by Government, alonghwith the rate of such taxes;

(c) the estimated production cost of cement during 2005-06 and 2006-07 till December; and

(d) the percentage of production cost being earned as profit by the producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Data relating to cost of production of various cement producers is not centrally maintained.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Withdrawal of its Report by Mashelkar Committee

1675. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Dr. R.A. Mashelkar Committee on patent Law had withdrawn its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Committee has asked Government for three months' time to re-examine and resubmit the report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) The Chairman of the Technical Expert Group (TEG), namely, Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, requested the Government for approval to "withdraw the Report, re-examine, it and resubmit a Report, which meets with the requirements of the highest standards." He also stated that "it will take the TEG three months to resubmit the Report from the time the TEG is given time to re-examine the Report." The Government has agreed to allow the TEG to remove the "technical inaccuracies" in the Report.

Acceptance of industry's views in the Budget

1676. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether pre-Budget interaction between the captains of Industry and Commerce were held extensively from mid-December, 2006 to the end to January, 2007; if so, whether their views were taken into consideration, especially those with regard to abolition of Fringe Benefit Tax higher incentive for tourism, hospitality sector;

(b) whether the industry's plea for developing a mechanism to encourage Indian investment in overseas countries, thus assisting mergers and acquisitions by domestic companies, was adequately accommodated in the proposals sent by Commerce and Industry Minister to the Finance Minister, and

(c) if so, what has been the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. Pre-Budget interactions were held with Export Promotion Councils (EPCs)/Commodity Boards, Trade Associations etc. during